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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2007

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SECRET

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TOT: 230924Z DEC 81 WASHINGT 103304

S E C R E T

DEFERRED TELEPOUCH 230924Z WASHINGTON 103304

TO: OCD WASHINGTON INFO [redacted] OCD/HEADQUARTERS

FROM: EUR/SA INFO EUR/SA) EUR/RR

SUBJECT: (U) INTEL INTEL SVDISH SGDOMESTIC - INFORMATION ON SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM

REF: DOC 14260

1. (U) REVIED OF BOTH BNDR CLE AND SVMACE FILES HAS UNCOVERED NO INFORMATION THAT CONFIRMS THE ACCUSATION THAT SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM WAS EVER A MEMBER OF THE NAZI YOUTH MOVEMENT. THAT WALDHEIM MAY HAVE SERVED IN A SPECIAL COMMANDO UNIT BEHIND THE SOVIET LINES AND SUFFERED CAPTURE AND IMPRISONMENT BY THE SOVIETS ALSO LACKS SUPPORTING EVIDENCE.

2. (U) WALDHEIM'S MILITARY CAREER RUNS AS FOLLOWS. ONE SOURCE INDICATED THAT WALDHEIM, AN INTENSELY PATRIOTIC YOUTH, VOLUNTEERED FOR SERVICE IN THE AUSTRIAN ARMY IN 1936 AFTER HIS GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL. HE SERVED LESS THAN ONE FULL YEAR IN A DRAGOON REGIMENT AND WITHDREW FROM MILITARY SERVICE WITH A RANK EQUIVALENT TO CORPORAL. IN 1937 HE ENROLLED IN THE VIENNA CONSULAR ACADEMY TO PREPARE FOR THE CAREER OF A DIPLOMAT. FOLLOWING THE NAZI SEIZURE OF POWER IN AUSTRIA IN 1938, WALDHEIM'S FATHER WAS BRIEFLY IMPRISONED BY THE NAZI AUTHORITIES.

3. (U) UPON THE OUTBREAK OF WWII IN 1939, WALDHEIM WAS DRAFTED INTO THE GERMAN ARMY. HE SERVED AS A STAFF INTELLIGENCE OFFICER WITH THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT IN THE 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION, WHICH SAW ACTION IN BOTH THE POLISH (SEPTEMBER 1939) AND FRENCH (MAY-JUNE 1940) CAMPAIGNS. THE DIVISION RETURNED TO THE EAST IN JUNE 1941 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INVASION OF RUSSIA. WALDHEIM'S SERVICE WITH THE 45TH DIVISION ENDED IN 1941 WHEN HE RECEIVED A LEG WOUND ON THE EASTERN FRONT. THERE IS NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT WHILE THERE WALDHEIM EVER PARTICIPATED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN THE ANTI-JEWISH OR ANTI-PARTISAN ACTIVITIES OF THE GERMAN EXTERMINATION TEAMS. WALDHEIM'S RECUPERATION LASTED

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6. C. AFTER HIS DISCHARGE, WALDHEIM RETURNED TO VIENNA TO STUDY LAW. HE RECIEVED HIS DOCTORATE IN LAW IN 1944 AND THEN BEGAN HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THIS EXPLAINS WHY WALDHEIM WAS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH GENERAL VON PANNWITZ IN MOSCOW.

7. C. THE ALLEGATION THAT WALDHEIM WAS ONCE A NAZI HAS BEEN MADE TO ESTABLISH ANY ASSOCIATION BETWEEN WALDHEIM AND THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY. FURTHERMORE, THE FACT THAT WALDHEIM HAS ENJOYED A PUBLIC CAREER OF SOME 35 YEARS WITHOUT HAVING BEEN EXPOSED IN THE PAST THROUGH ANY ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE NAZIS SUGGESTS THAT SUCH ALLEGATIONS HAVE NO BASIS WHATEVER.

8. C. FILE: [redacted] 20 C 8960811 PVL 22 DEC 81

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